The Iowa Board of Chiropractic Examiners has identified several Iowa rules that require attention. Many of the complaints received by the board involve situations where the doctor may have been in violation of these rules. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of areas that need emphasis when offering programs to licensees for jurisprudence continuing education. Simplified descriptions of these rules are listed below.

Code of Iowa

151.2(2) Chiropractors may only treat "human ailments." Chiropractors in Iowa are in violation of law if they treat animals. The board has discussed how changes might be made to allow for "animal or veterinary chiropractic," but to date this is illegal.

BOARD RULES – Iowa Administrative Code 645

645-45.2(2) Clinical and billing records must be maintained a minimum of five years. Doctors should carefully check the rules and Iowa statute of limitations before destroying any records.

- 45.2(3) All advertising, brochures, signage, etc., must contain verifiable information. The use of the term physical therapy is prohibited unless there is a licensed physical therapist providing such services. There can be no doubt as to what the chiropractor's credentials are. Advertising that could lead one to think the chiropractor is something other than a D.C. is a violation. Examples would be advertising in the section of the yellow pages that is typically for medical doctors or having the doctor's name in print, but not having the appropriate designation such as D.C. or "Chiropractor."
- 45.2(2)e, 45.2(6), 45.2(7) Use of drugs or alcohol inside or outside the clinic can be grounds for discipline. See board rules to understand how this is defined.
- 45.2(8), 45.2(9) All services billed must be well documented. Any changes or additions to the patient record must be done appropriately. Documenting four regions being treated, but billing for five, or coding for a supervised procedure when in fact it was not supervised; are examples of acts of fraud.
- 45.2(10) Negligence: One of the areas the board considers as negligence is failure to provide a copy of clinical records, imaging or billing records within 30 day of the patient's signed request for these. The board will further clarify this requirement in 2007.
- 45.2(16) The board must be notified within 30 days of any judgment or settlement of malpractice.
- 45.2(17-19) Doctors must comply with any board investigation.
- 45.2(28)b Any sexual relationship with a patient or employee, who is not the doctor's spouse, constitutes unethical conduct and is a serious violation of Iowa law. This includes comments or actions that may be interpreted by the patient or employee as sexual in nature.

The Iowa Board of Chiropractic Examiners has implemented rules requiring continuing education coursework on Iowa law and board rules. It is every doctor's responsibility to be familiar with the legal requirements for practice in Iowa. After January 1, 2007, the board will take a stronger stance on disciplinary action associated with violations.

The Iowa Board of Chiropractic Examiners wants to ensure that doctors of chiropractic are providing excellent care and utilizing appropriate business practices. This enables the board to protect the citizens of Iowa and provide for a strong profession in our state.

Compiled for publication by: The Iowa Board of Chiropractic Examiners October 17, 2006

For additional information, contact the board office at (515) 281-4287